

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 2, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and this response addresses the Examiner's concerns. Claims 1-11 were pending in the application and all are rejected in the present Office Action. Claim 12 is added herein.

More specifically, claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Begala et al. (US Patent #5,185,062 or US Patent #5,595,629). This rejection is respectfully transversed.

The Begala patents disclose a process of papermaking having improvements in the drainage and retention of an aqueous cellulosic suspension.

In contrast to the Begala patents, the object of the present invention is to improve sizing performance, although some benefit in drainage and retention may also be achieved. Specifically, the present invention discloses a process of papermaking wherein an improvement in sizing is achieved through the use of a combination of certain anionic and cationic polymers, wherein such polymers are separately added to a cellulose suspension containing sizing agents and the combination of the polymers and the sizing agents act as the internal sizing means.


There is no teaching, suggestion or disclosure in the Begala patents that the disclosed retention system could provide any improvement in sizing or could in any way function as the internal sizing means utilized in a papermaking process. In fact, Begala discloses that its retention system may be utilized when other additives, including sizing agents, such as alum and rosin, are charged to the cellulosic slurry *without any substantial interference to the activity of the invention* (see col. 4, lines 23-26). Further, Begala is completely silent with regard to cellulose reactive sizing agents.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner find the present application in condition for immediate allowance.

In accordance with Section 714.01 of the M.P.E.P., the following information is presented in the event that the Examiner deems a call desirable:

Michelle J. Burke (914) 674-5459

Respectfully submitted,


Michelle J. Burke
Reg. No. 37791
Attorney for Applicant

Akzo Nobel Inc.
Intellectual Property Dept.
7 Livingstone Avenue
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522-3408